

Stream Line

City of Indianapolis / Department of Public Works / Clean Stream Program

Summer 2006 | Issue 9

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Statement Of Purpose

The Indianapolis Clean Stream Team is overseeing many projects to keep raw sewage out of our waterways and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Stream Line is published quarterly to keep you informed about the city's progress in reducing raw sewage overflows and restoring the health of our streams.

Contact Info

Send letters to:

Indianapolis Clean Stream Team
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**Sewer Overflow
Hotline:
327-1643**

CITY REACHES AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON PLAN TO CURB RAW SEWAGE OVERFLOWS

30-Day Public Comment Period Ends August 18

INDIANAPOLIS— The city of Indianapolis has reached a tentative agreement with state and federal agencies on a 20-year plan to greatly reduce raw sewage overflows into Marion County waterways, ensuring continued progress in improving the quality of life in many Indianapolis neighborhoods, Mayor Bart Peterson announced July 19.

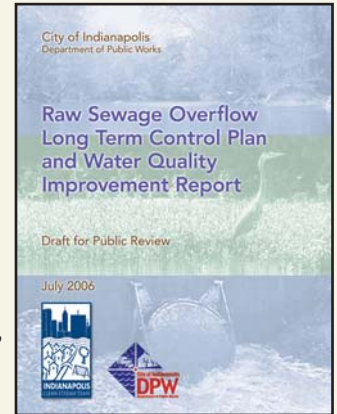
Before finalizing the plan, which is a key component of the mayor's Clean Streams-Healthy Neighborhoods program, the city is holding a 30-day public comment period. Once finalized, the plan will be submitted to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and filed in federal court along with a consent decree.

The \$1.8 billion plan represents the largest investment in clean water infrastructure in the city's history. All construction will be completed by Dec. 31, 2025.

"Since 2000, we have invested more than \$200 million and reduced raw sewage overflows by 145 million gallons per year," Mayor Peterson said. "This long-term plan will guarantee ongoing, sustained progress toward cleaner streams and healthier neighborhoods for years to come."

Under the tentative agreement, the city has agreed to invest:

- \$1.73 billion by December 2025 to significantly reduce raw sewage overflows from the combined sewer system *See "20-Year Plan," Page 3*

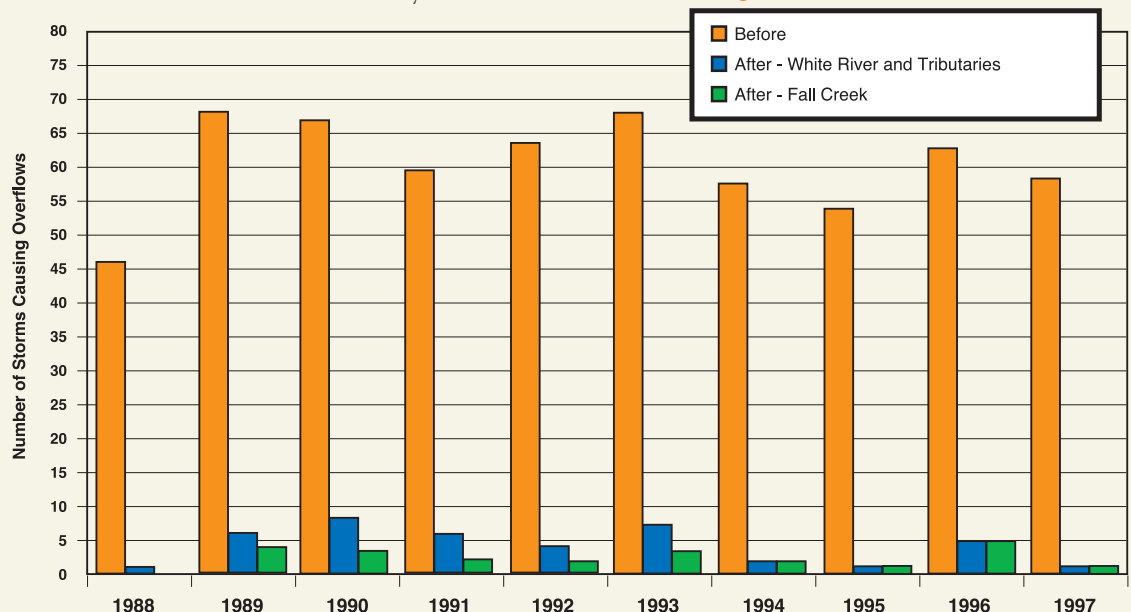


PUBLIC HEARING ON THE LONG TERM CONTROL PLAN

August 3, 2006

7 p.m.

University of Indianapolis
1400 E. Hanna Avenue
Good Hall, Room 105



Source: 1950-2003 NetSTORM Simulation. Baseline Conditions and Selected LTCP.

Note: (1) For before conditions, there is an average annual frequency of 60 overflow events per year. The distribution of the 60 events is based on the 54-year precipitation record.

(2) It is estimated that at least one CSO outfall structure would discharge for the listed number of dates each year.

The city's plan will reduce the frequency of overflows from about 60 storms per year to an average of 2 on Fall Creek and 4 on the remaining streams. As shown above, the number of overflow events will vary from year to year, depending on the weather and the severity of storms.

Find us on the Web at: www.indycleanstreams.org



I am pleased to announce the completion of the city's long-term control plan to reduce raw sewage overflows. The \$1.8 billion plan will have many benefits to our community, such as:

- Improving the ability of the sewer system and treatment plants to handle rainfall and snowmelt, so sewers would overflow only during large storms
- Capturing 97 percent of wet-weather sewer flows on Fall Creek, reducing the frequency of overflows from about 60 storms per year to 2 storms in a year with average rainfall
- Capturing 95 percent of wet-weather sewer flows on White River and other streams, reducing overflows to 4 storms in an average year
- Improving oxygen levels for fish, reducing E. coli bacteria levels, and reducing or eliminating odors, untreated sewage and trash in neighborhood streams

The city also will be required to invest \$50.4 million on specific sanitary sewer improvements by 2015 to eliminate chronic sanitary sewer overflows in the separate, sanitary sewer system.

The plan is one of four components of the mayor's 20-year Clean Streams-Healthy Neighborhoods Program. The other components, though not a part of the federal agreement, are:

- Bringing sewer service to 18,000 homes in neighborhoods with septic systems
- Expanding and repairing the separate sanitary sewer system to meet growing neighborhood and business needs
- Improving neighborhood drainage and flood protection

Comings and Goings

Many DPW staff deserve credit for the plan's completion. Former DPW Director Jim Garrard helped negotiate the plan's final details while also taking over economic development activities in the mayor's office. Mona Salem, a DPW leader since 2000, left her position as the city's top engineer earlier this year to take a private sector position closer to her family in the Middle East. Our new deputy director of engineering is Carlton Ray, who has helped steer the city's raw sewage overflow program since the 1990s. Thanks to Jim, Mona, Carlton and all the DPW staff and contractors who made the plan's completion possible.

BRIEFS

DPW celebrates National Engineers Week by introducing young people to the profession

To highlight National Engineers Week 2006, the Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) kicked off "Connecting Educators to Engineering" to introduce young people to engineering and technical careers.

DPW-Engineering partnered with the Indiana chapter of the American Council of Engineering Cos., sending two-person teams to discuss the engineering profession with Indianapolis middle school students during National Engineers Week, Feb. 20-24.

Professionals who participated in "Connecting Educators to Engineering" also are volunteering for field trip assistance, after-school activities and/or mentoring projects.

"The presenters did a wonderful job of planting seeds for potential career fields for my students," said Joan Jacobs, guidance counselor at Eastwood Middle School in Washington Township.



DPW Senior Project Manager John Oakley discusses the engineering profession with a group of middle school students.

Clean Stream Team Honored By Friends of White River

The Indianapolis Clean Stream Team recently was recognized for exemplary service to the White River from the Friends of White River. Former DPW Director James Garrard (shown at far right in the photo) accepted the governmental leadership award along with other honorees at the Friends' annual meeting earlier this year.



Dirty Dozen Hunting & Fishing Club Earns Clean Stream Team Award

Volunteers turned out to pick up garbage and debris around Fall Creek during this year's Fall Creek Clean Up on March 25, which was sponsored by the Dirty Dozen Hunting & Fishing Club. For the organization's sustained commitment to preserving our waterways, the club received an honorary membership to the Clean Stream Team at the seventh annual event. Among the volunteers were IPS students, students from local universities and city employees.



DPW Public Information Officer Margie Smith-Simmons and her son, Chad Simmons, presented an honorary Clean Stream Team award to Joe King of the Dirty Dozen Hunting & Fishing Club.

20-Year Plan (continued from page 1)

- \$50.4 million by December 2015 to eliminate chronic overflows from seven locations in the separate, sanitary sewer system
- \$3.5 million by December 2010 on supplemental environmental projects to eliminate septic systems in the Epler-Meridian and Banta-Southport neighborhoods.

Although not a required component of the agreement, the city also plans an additional \$64.3 million in watershed improvement projects, such as streambank restoration and streamflow augmentation, for a total investment of more than \$1.8 billion in 2005 dollars.

The 30-day public review and comment period for the plan will end August 18. The plan is available on-line at www.indycleanstreams.org, at all Marion County public library branches, the Department of Public Works office at 604 N. Sherman Drive, and the Indianapolis Clean Stream Team at 151 N. Delaware, Suite 900. Electronic copies of the plan on CD-Rom can be obtained by calling 317-327-8720.

A public hearing on the proposed plan will be held at 7:00 p.m. on August 3 at Good Hall, Room 105, University of Indianapolis, 1400 E. Hanna Avenue. Written comments on the plan should be submitted by August 18 either on-line at the address above or to the Indianapolis Clean Stream Team, 151 N. Delaware St., Suite 900, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

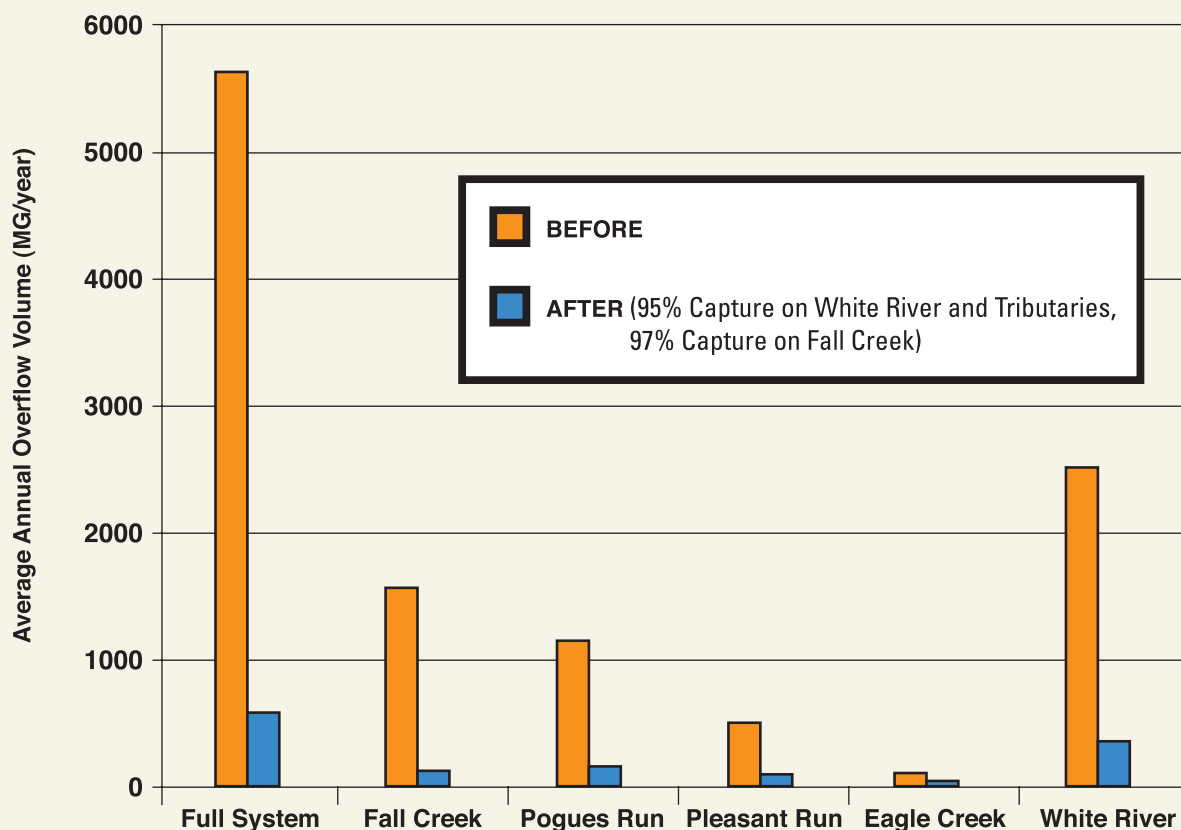
"Our draft plan has been built upon years of public dialogue," DPW Director Kumar Menon said. "We've conducted extensive outreach to neighborhoods, the business community and environmental interest groups – and benefited from the advice of many stakeholders and experts through our Clean Stream Team Advisory Committee. However, we didn't want to finalize the plan without an opportunity for our citizens to provide their comments and input."

The 20-year plan to reduce sewage overflows will include the following major construction projects:

- A 224-million-gallon tunnel located deep underground along Fall Creek and White River. The tunnel will store sewage overflows during rain storms, then pump the sewage to the city's wastewater treatment plants after the storm subsides. Similar sewage storage tunnels have been built in Chicago, Cleveland, Milwaukee, and many other cities.
- New, larger sewers and underground storage tanks along affected waterways to capture overflows and carry them to the central tunnel or treatment plants.
- Improvements and expansion at the Belmont and Southport Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plants to increase their ability to store and treat incoming flows during wet weather.
- A new 12-foot diameter sewer connecting the two treatment plants, enabling the city to better manage and treat flows during wet weather.
- Local sewer separation projects to eliminate isolated raw sewage overflows on White River, State Ditch, Lick Creek and the upstream ends of Fall Creek, Pogues Run and Bean Creek.
- Inflatable dams and pinch valves at key points in the sewer system, enabling the city to better use existing sewer lines to contain and reduce sewage overflows.

The plan will improve the ability of the sewer system and treatment plants to handle rainfall and snowmelt, so sewers overflow only during very large storms when streams are flowing too fast for wading or swimming.

A rate increase approved last year by the City-County Council will fund projects planned in 2006-2008.



Average annual overflow volumes from the city's combined sewer system will be reduced dramatically under the 20-year plan, as shown.

MAYOR PETERSON WINS NATIONAL CLEAN WATER AWARD



Mayor Peterson received his award from NACWA President Donnie Wheeler.

Mayor Bart Peterson was recently honored by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) with a 2006 National Environmental Achievement Public Service Award.

NACWA said Mayor Peterson was being recognized “for being an outspoken advocate for the need to improve the Indianapolis’ sewer infrastructure and for aggressively addressing the city’s [combined sewer overflow] CSO problem. You are a true champion of wastewater utility issues.”

The mayor’s achievements since taking office in 2000 include:

- Submitting a long-term control plan in 2001 in advance of permit requirements and investing more than \$200 million into CSO-related early action projects.
- Gaining passage of a 17.8 percent sewer rate increase in 2001 and an 87 percent, three-year rate increase for 2006-2008 to fund necessary sewer improvements.
- Implementing the first real-time CSO public notification program in the nation.
- Establishing stormwater construction standards in the combined sewer area, although not required to do so by regulatory agencies.

- Developing a Capacity Management, Operation and Maintenance (CMOM) program in 2000-01 without permit requirement to do so.
- Developing a county-wide Sanitary Sewer Master Plan for large-diameter sewers and conducting Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Studies to identify and address small-diameter sewer needs.
- Creating a new Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP) that will use city financing to provide proper sewage treatment to 900 homes each year.

“None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the mayor’s leadership,” said DPW Director Kumar Menon. “While some elected officials find it difficult to put money and attention into underground infrastructure that many will never see, Mayor Peterson has been a leader who recognizes that the city could no longer afford to ignore its waterways and needs for improved sewage treatment.”

NACWA represents more than 300 wastewater utilities around the country, including Indianapolis DPW. NACWA members serve the majority of the sewered population in the United States and collectively treat and reclaim more than 18 billion gallons of wastewater daily.

INDIANAPOLIS CLEAN STREAM TEAM

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